



The Book of Romans Lesson 11 4Q 2017 The Elect

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

January 10,11, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be conducting a two day seminar at Fort Leonard Wood, MO for military mental health professionals and law enforcement.

January 19,20, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Tacoma Central SDA Church, Tacoma, Washington.

March 24, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at the California Baptist University in San Bernadino CA, in conjunction with the AACC

May 4-5, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at Grace Fellowship, York PA, in conjunction with the AACC

July 27-28, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentationat New Life Church, Colorado Springs CO, in conjunction with the AACC

September 27-29, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Mega National Conference of the American Association of Christian Counselors in Dallas, TX

SABBATH

Read memory text: “I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.” Rom 11:1

What does this mean?

Read first two paragraphs: “This week’s lesson...” I think this is a very good summary—excellent!

Is anyone excluded from heaven because of nationality, race, and ethnic group?

Is anyone included in salvation *because* of nationality, race, and ethnic group?

Do you agree that God has not rejected any group of people from salvation?

Does that mean that there is a group of people are included in salvation just because of some ethnic or genetic factor?



If God has not rejected any persons from salvation because of race or genetics, does that mean He has not been rejected them for some mission?

Can God call a person or a group to a mission, and then, based on their refusal to fulfill His calling, reject them for that mission and call another?

Did God call King Saul to be the first king of Israel? Did God not only reject King Saul but his entire family for that mission and choose another?

Does that mean that Saul's children were rejected from salvation?

What about the Jews as a people?

Were they called, by God, for mission? What mission? To evangelize the world with the truth about God to prepare the world to accept Jesus as their Savior.

Did they fulfill that mission?

Are they rejected from salvation? No!

Are they rejected, as a nation, as an exclusive group from being God's agency on earth to reveal the truth about God's kingdom? Yes!

According to the Bible, does the ethnic group, biological descendants of Israel, as a nation, have an end-time corporate role to play in God's plan?

Most Christian denominations say yes—the SDA church says no!

What is the underlying difference between these two views and which do you believe is most consistent with Scripture and God's character and design laws.

First, what is the basis of salvation? Jesus Christ!

Is salvation different for Jews than non-Jews?

Do Jews have a different avenue for salvation than the rest of the world?

What about mission, does God force people to fulfill mission against their will?

So why do so many Christians think that biological Jews have some special role in God's end time plan?



Because they have accepted two false premises: 1) that being a Jew today is determined by genetics and 2) that the promises of God in the Old Testament times to genetic Israel were without any conditions on their part.

Consider salvation—Did God promise to Adam and Eve and all their descendants to provide a Savior? Does that mean all people will be saved? Why not? Because while God promised a Savior to provide salvation freely to all, the promise of salvation is upon the condition of willing acceptance, trust, and participation in God’s plan. Therefore, not everyone will be saved, despite God’s promise to provide a Savior.

Likewise, for Israel, God made promises that were conditional on their participation and cooperation. And just like with salvation, Israel when it refused to participate and rejected Jesus, for them as a nation, the promises are not realized.

So, the first premise, that a Jew today is determined by genetics—the Bible proves this false:

Rom 2:28 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ **No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.** Such a man’s praise is not from men, but from God...

^{3:9} What shall we conclude then? Are we [biological Jews] any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that **Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin.** ¹⁰ As it is written: “There is **no one** righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is **no one** who understands, **no one** who seeks God...”

There is no difference, ²³ for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus...

²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. ²⁹ **Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too,** ³⁰ since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. ³¹ Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” ¹² For there is **no difference between Jew and Gentile**—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him... Rom 10:11,12

“Abraham believed God, and because of his faith God accepted him as righteous.” ¹⁰ When did this take place? Was it before or after Abraham was circumcised? It was before, not after. He was circumcised later, and his circumcision was a sign to show that because of his faith God had accepted him as righteous before he had been circumcised. **And so Abraham is the spiritual father of all who believe in God and are accepted as righteous by him, even**



though they are not circumcised. ¹²He is also the father of those who are circumcised, that is, of those who, in addition to being circumcised, **also live the same life of faith that our father Abraham lived before he was circumcised.** Rom 4:9-12

Who, according to Scripture, are considered descendants of Abraham—Jews or Israel? Those who have faith like Abraham and whose hearts have been changed—in other words, born again Christians!

So the first premise that those who believe genetic descendants of Israel have some special access, role, place in salvation is proved false.

The second premise is that the promises God made in OT times to Israel will be fulfilled to genetic Israel regardless of their response, in other words, the promises were without any conditions.

Several problems with that premise—first it would suggest God didn't see the future and didn't know that the Israelites would reject Him.

Second, it would preclude God from replacing biological children with spiritual children, those who are like Abraham in character to fulfill His promises through them.

Third, it denies Scripture:

If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, ⁸ and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. ⁹ **And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted,** ¹⁰ **and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.** Jer 18:7-10

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. ³⁸ Look, **your house is left to you desolate.** Mt 23:37,38

From one of the founders of the SDA church in the book *Prophets and Kings*:

In proclaiming the truths of the everlasting gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, **God's church on earth today is fulfilling the ancient prophecy, "Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit."** Isaiah 27:6. **The followers of Jesus, in cooperation with heavenly intelligences, are rapidly occupying the waste places of the earth;** and, as the result of their labors, an abundant fruitage of precious souls is developing. Today, as never before, the dissemination of Bible truth by means of a consecrated church is bringing to the sons of men the benefits foreshadowed centuries ago **in the promise to Abraham and to all Israel,--to God's church on earth in every age,--"I will bless thee, . . . and thou shalt be a blessing."** Genesis 12:2. {PK 703.1}



This promise of blessing should have met fulfillment in large measure during the centuries following the return of the Israelites from the lands of their captivity. It was God's design that the whole earth be prepared for the first advent of Christ, even as today the way is preparing for His second coming. At the end of the years of humiliating exile, God graciously gave to His people Israel, through Zechariah, the assurance: "I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain." And of His people He said, "Behold, . . . I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness." Zechariah 8:3, 7, 8. {PK 703.2}

These promises were conditional on obedience. The sins that had characterized the Israelites prior to the captivity, were not to be repeated. "Execute true judgment," the Lord exhorted those who were engaged in rebuilding; "and show mercy and compassions every man to his brother: and oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother." "Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates." Zechariah 7:9, 10; 8:16. {PK 704.1}

Once we replace the false premises with the truth we realize that the Jews are in the same boat as the Gentiles—sinners saved by grace through faith in Jesus. And thus we want to reach every human being on the planet with the same message of truth, love, freedom found in Jesus Christ.

There is no place in the Christian world for discrimination based on race, nationality, ethnic group and I will throw in—gender.

Do you agree?

Then why in the SDA church, do we have one division of the world church, and only one division, the NAD, with conferences segregated by race?

Can you make a Bible case for segregation of Christians by race? No! Absolutely not! Then why has the SDA church done this?

Because the SDA church was founded in North America in 1863 and wanted to evangelize all people regardless of race, and the US was in the middle of the Civil War, which had slavery as a core issue. There was huge prejudice in the hearts and minds of whites in America—particularly the southern states. What would have happened if the church had tried to integrate the churches then? What would have happened if a black preachers tried to preach in a white church? Would such practices, in that environment, have advanced the gospel? No! So the church, due to the hard hearts of people in the culture, made segregated conferences NOT to separate people, but because people were already separated by race and the church needed two avenues one for the whites and one for the blacks, in order to reach ALL people with the gospel.

Does this make sense?



Now you understand exactly what the Apostles were doing in the New Testament times in regard to women's roles in the church—they were meeting people where they were. Humans in that culture had bias and bigotry in their hearts, women were not viewed as equal in moral worth, mental ability or strength of character and the Apostles were setting guidelines to enhance the advancement of the gospel, not articulating God's ideal for women in the church.

Today, should we continue to promote separate conferences based on race? Should we continue to discriminate against women in church leadership?

It is all determined by the condition of hearts: The more Christlike, the more love, the more restoration to righteousness the more equality and unity

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal 3:26-29

But the harder the heart, the more selfish, fearful and controlling, then the more bias, prejudice, and bigotry and thus the need for the segregation and discrimination based on race and gender.

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "Legalism can come in many forms..." The lesson is right when it says "Legalism can come in many forms."

The most common form of legalism is the penal/legal theology, that God was **legally** required to send Jesus to pay our **legal** debt, that we then claim as our **legal** payment and we get **legal** adjustment in our heavenly record book, so when our names come up in the judgment we get **legal** pardon.

This is legalism—it is not the plan of salvation—the plan of salvation is the plan to restore you to God's original design for human beings—to restore God's image in you!

Read Romans 10:1-4:

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.² For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.³ Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.⁴ Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. NIV84



Read third paragraph, “Even if one includes in the definition...” What does it mean Christ is the end of the law?

It simply means that Christ completely restored God’s design back into the human species, restored the law of love as the perfect operating system.

Here is Romans 10:1-4 from *The Remedy*:

Brothers and sisters, my heart's great desire and constant request to God is that the Israelites—the genetic descendants of Abraham—will accept the truth and be healed.²I can assure you from my own experience that they are zealous to serve God, but their zeal is based on the wrong concept of God, as they don't really know him.³And because they do not know him—his goodness, mercy, forgiveness, kindness, love, and his free gift of healing and restoration—they have sought to please him by working to create their own cure, and thus have refused God's free Remedy.⁴In Christ, God’s design (law) is complete, so that there may be perfection of character and healing of mind and heart for all who trust him.

MONDAY

Read Romans 11:1-7, and the lesson asks “What common teaching does this passage deny clearly and irrevocably?” From *The Remedy*:

I ask then: Did God reject the people whom he chose as his helpers in revealing his plan of saving the world? Absolutely not! I am an Israelite myself—a genetic descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.²God did not reject the people he chose as his helpers in revealing his plan, but he foreknew that only some would trust him. Don't you realize what the Scripture says about Elijah—that he thought he was the only one left in all Israel loyal to God? He said to the Lord:³"Lord, they have killed all your prophets and representatives, and torn down all your altars; I am the only one left loyal to you, and they are trying to kill me!"⁴And what did God tell him? "There are seven thousand who remain loyal to me and have not bowed the knee to Baal."⁵So too, at the present time—even though the officials of Israel have rejected God's healing plan, even though the majority of the people he chose as his helpers to reveal his healing plan have rejected it—there remains a remnant of Abraham's descendants who have accepted the truth about God and his gracious Remedy, and who have been restored to trust.⁶And if they have been restored to trust through God’s grace, then it is no longer by some work or effort to earn favor with God; if it were, then God’s graciousness would not be gracious at all.

⁷What, then, does this mean? That Israel as a nation did not achieve the reunification with God they sought, except for a few individuals. What Israel sought to earn by working to induce God to be gracious, actually caused them to misunderstand God, become self-sufficient and arrogant, and fail in obtaining restoration with God. But those who trusted God, based on the



truth as revealed in Jesus, obtained God’s gracious gift of healing and restoration. The others, instead of being healed and restored, were hardened,”

What is the message? Did God reject Jewish people from being saved? No! Did the Jewish nation reject the calling and purpose God had for them? Yes! Did many reject God’s method of salvation and substitute their own? And what is the result of that? Hardening of heart—why? If you reject the only true remedy of a terminal condition and take a false remedy what happens?

What about Christianity today—are Christians vulnerable to the same problem, claiming to accept salvation as provided by Jesus, but instead substituting their own? Yes!

The lesson asks us to read Romans 11:7-10, from the NIV84:

What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened, ⁸ as it is written:

“God gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes so that they could not see
and ears so that they could not hear,
to this very day.”

⁹ And David says:

“May their table become a snare and a trap,
a stumbling block and a retribution for them.
¹⁰ May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see,
and their backs be bent forever.”

The lesson asks: “Does God blind people’s eyes to prevent them from seeing light that would lead them to salvation?”

What do these passages mean?

Do you understand them through imposed law, i.e. God making it happen, or through design law, God’s laws are the parameters upon which reality operate and thus if you make certain choices then predictable outcomes occur?

From *The Remedy*:

⁷What, then, does this mean? That Israel as a nation did not achieve the reunification with God they sought, except for a few individuals. What Israel sought to earn by working to induce God to be gracious, actually caused them to misunderstand God, become self-sufficient and arrogant, and fail in obtaining restoration with God. But those who trusted God, based on the truth as revealed in Jesus, obtained God’s gracious gift of healing and restoration. The others,



instead of being healed and restored, were hardened,⁸ as it is written: "When they rejected truth, God gave them over to a dull mind: eyes trained to no longer recognize truth and ears tuned to no longer hear truth; and this goes on to this very day."

⁹And David says: "May what they rely on for strength and sustenance be revealed as a snare and a trap, the actual cause of their stumbling and the source of their pain.

¹⁰"May the result of their rejection of truth damage their minds so they can no longer comprehend; may their characters be so twisted by persistent rebellion that they will not reform."

So why is so much of Scripture worded like God is doing it?

When your child is small do you set rules for them to brush their teeth, or not play in the street? Why?

- And what do you tell small children will happen if they fail to obey, i.e. don't brush their teeth or go out into the street?
- Do you threaten some consequence, time out, spanking, something that you will bring to bear upon them?
- Is your punishment the real problem with their disobedience? No!
- The real problem is breaking design laws that result in injury and even destruction to them.
- But, in their immaturity they cannot comprehend the real reason for brushing or not playing in the street, so you as a parent, **stand in as the source of inflicted pain and suffering**. You take onto you and your reputation the burden of being seen as an inflictor of punishment, as the source of the pain—you risk your children being afraid of you. Why do you do this?
- This is exactly what God did in OT times when the OT describes over and over again God threatening or taking responsibility for punishing them for their sins, and that is also what is happening in this passage.
- When we grow up to see God's law in its true light, we are like children who have realized the real reason to brush and not play in the street and we have a new perspective of love and appreciation for our parents who stood in the gap of our ignorance to protect us. This is how it is rendered in *The Remedy*.

TUESDAY

The lesson asks us to read Romans 11:11-15, from the NIV84:

¹¹ Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. ¹² But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!

¹³ I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my



ministry ¹⁴ in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.
¹⁵ For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

Then the lesson asks, “What great hope does Paul present in this passage?” How do you understand this? What is the meaning?

What was God’s plan? What was God trying to accomplish? So what is Paul saying?

From *The Remedy*:

¹¹ So, again I ask: Did they stumble and fall so low that they are beyond recovery? Absolutely not! Rather, because of their transgression, the privilege of joining God’s spiritual health-care team has come to the Gentiles—in order to inspire the descendants of Abraham to accept God’s healing and rejoin his team. ¹² But if their failure to fulfill the mission God assigned them means riches and opportunity for the rest of the world, and their lost position means that their mission was given to the Gentiles, how much greater will the richness of love and grace be if they accept the truth and fulfill their mission!

¹³ I am talking to you, Gentiles: I am the apostle to the Gentiles, and I take my responsibility to you seriously. ¹⁴ I hope that by leading you to trust God—and thus to experience the healing, love, peace and joy that reconciliation with God brings—I may somehow arouse my own people with a desire for this same experience, and maybe some of them will respond and be saved. ¹⁵ For even though they rejected the truth that brings trust, reconciliation and life eternal, this healing truth was still revealed to the world. What would have happened if they had accepted the truth? -An unbelievably powerful revelation of God's character, methods and principles seen in action would have transformed the entire world!

The lesson asks us to read Romans 11:16-24, from *The Remedy*:

If the ingredients used to make the loaf are untainted and pure, then the entire loaf will be perfect and healthy. If the roots of the tree are pure and unpolluted, then every branch and all the fruit will be perfect and healthy.

¹⁷ If some of the branches have broken off from the vine, and you—though not natural to the vine—have been grafted in and now share the nourishment from the root, ¹⁸ don't feel that you are somehow superior to the branches that have broken off. If you do, remember this: The root does not draw sustenance from you, but you are nourished by the root. ¹⁹ You might try to argue, "But we must be something special, because the natural branches were broken off to make room for us." ²⁰ Don't be ridiculous. They broke away because they did not trust, and you were grafted in because you did trust. Don't be conceited, but be afraid of conceit or pride, or anything that will undermine your abiding trust in God. ²¹ For if God did not stop the natural branches from distrusting and breaking away, he will not restrict your freedom to break away



either.

²²Consider how kind and gracious, and how true and consistent God is. He is true and consistent to the principles of love and freedom, and forces no one to remain connected to him, but allows those who choose to break away to do so if they insist. He is kind and gracious to you, allowing you to abide in his goodness. But if you choose to break away, you too will be permitted to sever your connection with him.²³ And if those who have broken away have a change of heart and again trust God, they will be reconnected to him, for God is able to heal them if they let him.²⁴ After all, if you—who were not originally attached to the vine—were successfully grafted in, isn't it a lot easier to reattach branches that were once part of the parent plant?

What is the message Paul is trying to share? What do you hear? Is this a legal process, or is it design law, how life is built, being connected to the source of life, having that original source of life flow into you and heal and transform you?

WEDNESDAY

Read Romans 11:25-27, from NIV84:

I do not want you to be ignorant of this **mystery**, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

“The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. ²⁷ And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

What does this mean?

Read first paragraph, “Christians have been discussing...” Is Paul referring to saving genetic Jews or to something else?

From the SDA Bible commentary on this verse:

mustērion, in classical Greek meaning “a hidden thing,” “a secret,”... Among the pagans *mustērion*, usually in the plural *mustēria*, was used for secrets or secret doctrines, to be made known only to those who had been specially initiated. It was the technical term for their secret rites and celebrations, and also for the mystic implements and ornaments they used in their ceremonies...

In the NT, *mustērion* refers to something that God wills to make known to those who are willing to receive His revelation, rather than to something that He desires to keep secret. Throughout Paul's writings the word carries the meaning of something which, though



incapable of being fully understood by unassisted human reason, has now been made known by divine revelation (see ch. 16:25, 26; etc.)...

Paul regarded it as his mission to make known the **mystery** “which was kept secret since the world began” (Rom. 16:25; cf. 1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 3:3, 4). **God’s eternal purpose to redeem man** in Christ has now been declared in Christianity. Thus Paul describes the whole Christian revelation as a mystery (Rom. 16:25; 1 Cor. 2:7–10; Eph. 1:9; 6:19; Col. 1:26; 2:2; 1 Tim. 3:9). He applies the term to the incarnation of Christ (1 Tim. 3:16), to the union of Christ and His church as typified by marriage (Eph. 5:32), to the transformation of the saints at the second coming (1 Cor. 15:51), to the opposition of Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:7), and **especially to the admission of the Gentiles to the kingdom of Christ** (Rom. 16:25, 26; Eph. 3:1–6; Col. 1:26, 27).

The mystery that Paul is now declaring is the purpose of God to save both Jews and Gentiles in His kingdom...¹

Read last paragraph, “There is a mighty...” Is this describing national identity or individual salvation?

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “Paul’s love...” Many of us have experienced this pain, from all over the world we get stories of people who have tried to share this picture of God’s character of love being told by their church family that they are not welcome.

How do we respond? What is a healthy way to understand such rejection?

From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks....

Read third paragraph, “No doubt...” What do you say if while witnesses about Jesus to a Jew the Jewish person says, “I have one question for you...Is Martin Luther your brother?” I was listening to Christian radio when a man said this was the exact question a Jewish professor asked him when he tried to share Jesus as Savior with him.

What would you say to that professor?

Before you answer, from "Luther, Martin", *JewishEncyclopedia.com*; cf. *Luther's Works*, American Edition, 55 vols., (St. Louis and Philadelphia: Concordia Publishing House and Fortress Press, 1955–86) 47:267.

"What shall we Christians do with this rejected and condemned people, the Jews"

¹ Nichol, F. D. (Ed.). (1980). *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Vol. 6, pp. 610–611). Review and Herald Publishing Association.



- "First, to set fire to their synagogues or schools ... This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of Christendom, so that God might see that we are Christians ..."
- "Second, I advise that their houses also be razed and destroyed."
- "Third, I advise that all their prayer books and Talmudic writings, in which such idolatry, lies, cursing, and blasphemy are taught, be taken from them."
- "Fourth, I advise that their rabbis be forbidden to teach henceforth on pain of loss of life and limb ..."
- "Fifth, I advise that safe-conduct on the highways be abolished completely for the Jews. For they have no business in the countryside ..."
- "Sixth, I advise that usury be prohibited to them, and that all cash and treasure of silver and gold be taken from them ..."
- "Seventh, I recommend putting a flail, an ax, a hoe, a spade, a distaff, or a spindle into the hands of young, strong Jews and Jewesses and letting them earn their bread in the sweat of their brow ... But if we are afraid that they might harm us or our wives, children, servants, cattle, etc., ... then let us emulate the common sense of other nations such as France, Spain, Bohemia, etc., ... then eject them forever from the country ..."

So, what do you say if a Jew asks you as a Christian if Martin Luther was your brother?

Do you say, "A very sick and twisted brother in need of much healing and transformation?"

Do you say, "Martin Luther is not my Savior, the Jewish teacher Jesus Christ is!"?

Do you say, "Martin Luther failed to represent Jesus, Jesus is the standard, Martin Luther was a sinner in need of much heart change before he could rightly represent Jesus."

Do you realize, that the person who wrote these things is also the one who came up with Penal Substitution Theology? Can you hear in Luther's words regarding the Jews an authoritarian, imperial mindset that uses coercion and rejects the law of liberty? Can you see why such a mind would create a penal/legal salvation model? Yet, it is all infected with the lie that God's law functions like our laws and ultimately promotes a false picture of God, who would celebrate the horrors Luther encouraged Christians to perpetrate upon the Jews.

When we substitute the law of love for imposed human law we exchange worshipping the Creator God for an imperial dictator and then we become like that beastly god? Just look at what Christians have done who believe in that type of a god.

FRIDAY

read and discuss questions